MARVEL

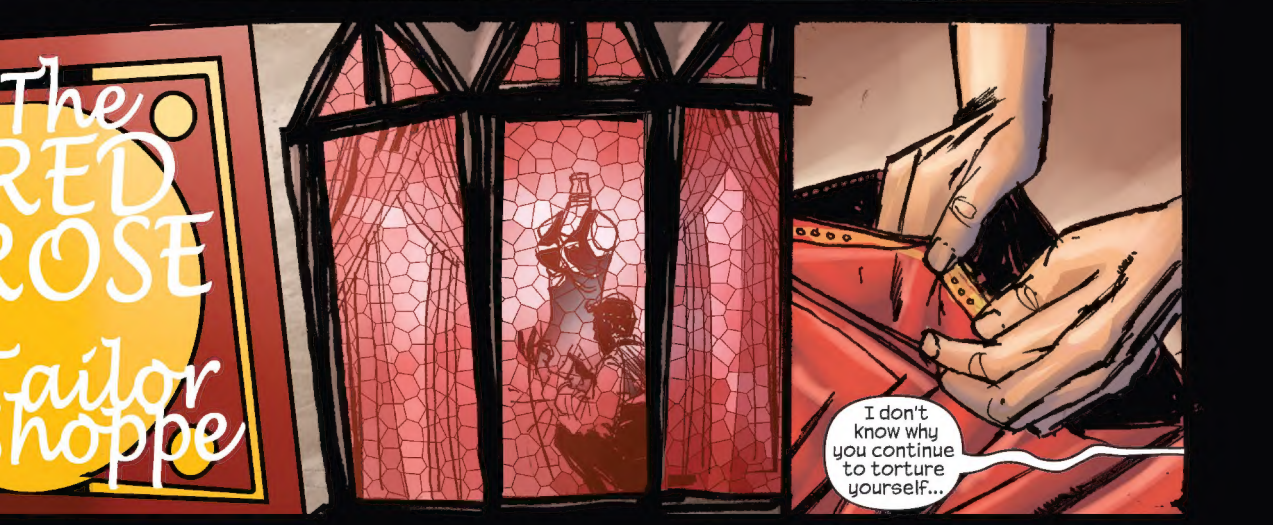
LIMITED SERIES

3 OF 4

X-MEN

FAIRY TALES

CEBULSKI
SIENKIEWICZ
GURU eFX



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To Die in Dreams
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...it's not as if the girls in this village lie awake at night dreaming of blind tailors.
Why bother with bridal dresses if you're never going to find yourself a wife?
I'd tell you to bite your tongue, if you had one, Ball.
If you could only see me now.

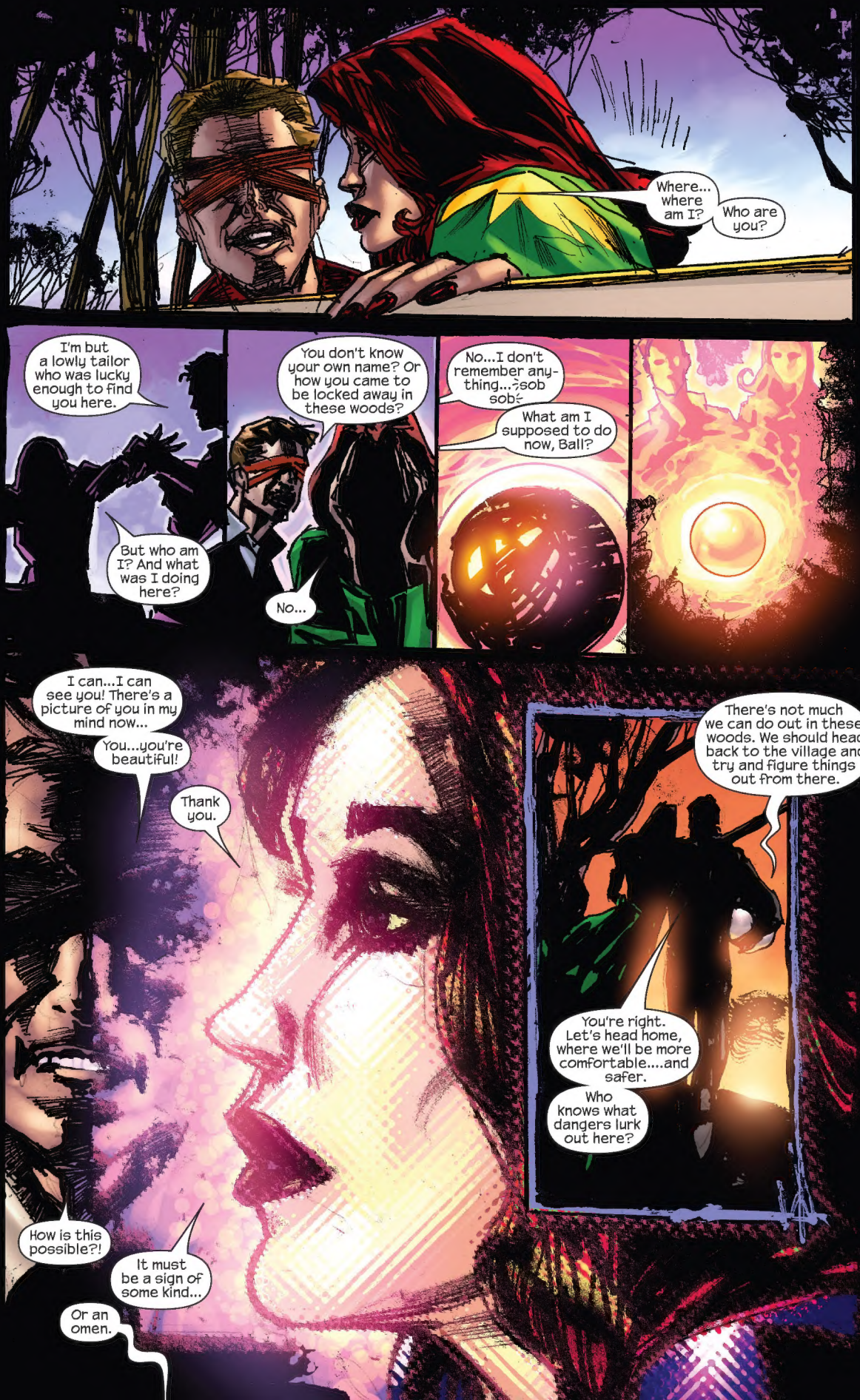
Having to *listen* to you is punishment enough as is.
Just you wait and see. I'll find the right woman one day!
Oh, I'll see, all right...as I usually do the seeing for both of us.
And maybe you should have listened an hour ago when I tried to remind you that Grandma Darkholme is waiting for the cloak she ordered for her granddaughter's birthday.
Oh, no! Where is it?
To your left.
Steer me straight! Make sure I don't run into anything this time.

Later...
Lift your feet as the roots are pretty thick through this stretch.
Boy, talk about a wolf in sheep's clothing. I thought the old lady was going to bite my head off.
You should have seen the look in her eyes!
Well, we made it out alive and got paid. Be thankful for the little things--
Turn left here!
What? You better not be joking around again! I don't find bumping into trees funny...
No! There's a light coming from under a thicket of brush over there.
There! There! Push aside those branches...

It feels like glass... what is this?
Something I don't think we were meant to find. We should just cover it back--
It's a box of some kind?
This is no concern of ours. We should be going--
TINK
TINK
A glass box...
A coffin, more likely...
Can you see inside, Ball? What does it contain?
KLIK
FFSSSSHHH

The air...it's so warm...
Please don't! This feels wrong!
There's a person in here.
A woman...
There's a woman in here!
What are you doing?!

I...I don't know what came over me...
I was drawn to her. Like she was calling for me...


Where... where am I?
Who are you?
I'm but a lowly tailor who was lucky enough to find you here.
But who am I? And what was I doing here?
You don't know your own name? Or how you came to be locked away in these woods?
No...
No...I don't remember anything...?sob sob
What am I supposed to do now, Ball?
There's not much we can do out in these woods. We should head back to the village and try and figure things out from there.
You're right. Let's head home, where we'll be more comfortable....and safer.
Who knows what dangers lurk out here?
I can...I can see you! There's a picture of you in my mind now...
You...you're beautiful!
Thank you.
How is this possible?!
It must be a sign of some kind...
Or an omen.

Alive and kicking, eh?
GRRRRR
Time to do what I shoulda done in the first place...

That should warm you up...
Thank you. You're too kind.
So...anything you see here spark any memories? I know it's not much, but I just thought maybe there'd be something here to take you back...
...make you remember some part of your past.
NNOOOOO!
KSH!

No. No. No. Get them away!
What's wrong? What did you remember?!
Something here must have set her off...
The scissors! On the table to your left!
These? Are these what you're afraid of?
HHIIYYYAAAHHHH!
I guess so...
Ouch.
No, not again. I don't want to remember...
Your clothes must be wet from the spilled tea. Why don't you change into this while we go try and find the village doctor.
I can't let it happen again. I don't want to hurt--
Who hurt you? What did they put you through?
Thank you.
What a lovely color!

Hello? Kind sir, are you back?
Nah, your boyfriend ain't back yet, but I figured I'd drop in and check up on ya.
Make sure you weren't up to your old tricks...
...Princess.
Princess? What?
Do I know you? Do you know me?
Don't play dumb with me, Red.
You're not walking out of here alive. I'm not gonna make that same mistake a second time.

STOP!
Be careful! He's got a knife!
You best stay outta this, tailor. I got no grudge with you.
You just got no idea what kind of trouble you dragged into our village.
You want her for yourself, don't you?
Well, I'm not going to let you take her. I love her.
What?! Have you lost your mind?
So she's already got you under her spell, does she?
Stay low!
TL ANGG
Not bad for a blind man!
But don't think that ball's gonna be able to block this...
SSHLIIICCK!

WHOOOO

HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
You thought you could erase my memory and place me in eternal slumber?! You fool!
I'll show you mere mortals the folly of your ways!
My wrath upon these lands will now be doubled!

Damn! No telling what she'll do...I've got to get after her.
Just what kind of evil have you unleashed on us here, butcher?
You best move your hand before you lose it, pal.
And where do you get off blaming me? You're the one who woke her up.
Woke who up? Just who the hell is she?!
Ever hear the story of the Witch Who Never Dies?
The sorceress who lives forever by inhabiting the bodies of young princesses? Everyone knows that old wives' tale!
Well, that "old wives' tale" just blew up your house!
You can't possibly mean...?
That's exactly what I mean. That was her!
Shoulda killed her once and for all after what she done the last time.
And just what did she *do* last time?
I can tell you on the way. We best get moving before her trail gets cold...
Way I figure it, waking her up makes you just as responsible as I am for making her remember. So we're going after her together, you and me.
Where?
How could you possibly expect a blind man to be of any use--?!
No, he's right. This is our fault. We need to set this right.
And I need to "see" her again!

The last time the Witch was seen was across the borders in the lands to the far north.

Warriors, witches and wizards of all kinds tried to stop her.

Long believed to be dead, she seemingly rose from the ashes to possess the body of the red-haired princess there.

No one stood a chance.

She wanted the kingdom for her own and single-handedly fought the armies dispatched against her to claim it.

They never stood a chance.

Just when all hope was lost, a single man, the knight who was to marry her, was able to defeat the princess with nothing more than his heart.

In the end, it wasn't any weapon that won the day. It was the simplest but most powerful of emotions...love!

The knight and princess were never seen or heard from again.

Why didn't the knight kill the princess then and there? Why not take her life and end the danger once and for all?
The answer to that's quite simple actually. Even after everything she did...
...he still loved her.
He raised his sword against her, but couldn't deliver the killing blow.
Isn't that right, my merciful knight?
Yeah, love can make you do stupid things.
Good thing I got smart.

FWIWAAASASSSH
Good thing I did too.

And what of you now, tailor? Do you wish the same fate that befell your friend?
I wish for but one thing...
If you're going to kill me, I would like to see you one more time before I die.
Yours is a beauty I would take to my grave.
I was under no spell. Your face is the only face I have ever truly seen.
I instantly fell in love with you...at first sight.
As you wish.

AARRRGGGHHHH!
What did you do?
I hoped that love, my love for you, would be able to break the spell you're under.
That you would see the error of your ways and your true nature would emerge...
It worked. But I fear it's only temporary. I can feel her fighting for control of me again.
There's only one thing left for you to do.

No, I can't...I love you.
Please, the spell's already starting to take hold. I can't do it myself...
...if you love me...
CHUK
The End